

*Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

enabling the user to specify ~~personality information~~ character traits for a virtual host;

storing the ~~personality information~~ character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and

generating a virtual host with a consistent personality in accordance with the ~~personality information~~ character traits.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~personality information~~ character traits comprise[[s]] information defining a tone of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~personality information~~ character traits comprise[[s]] information defining a speed of voice for the virtual host.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~personality information~~ character traits comprise[[s]] information defining a background for the virtual host.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~personality information~~ character traits comprise[[s]] information defining a sex for the virtual host.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~personality information~~ character traits comprise[[s]] information defining an accent for the virtual host.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the ~~personality information~~ character traits comprise[[s]] information defining a formality level of a conversational style for the virtual host.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the user profile further includes user interaction history information, the method further comprising: adjusting the conversational style based on the user interaction history information.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein adjusting comprises changing the formality level according to a level of user experience with the voice user interface.

Claims 19-55. (Canceled)